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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

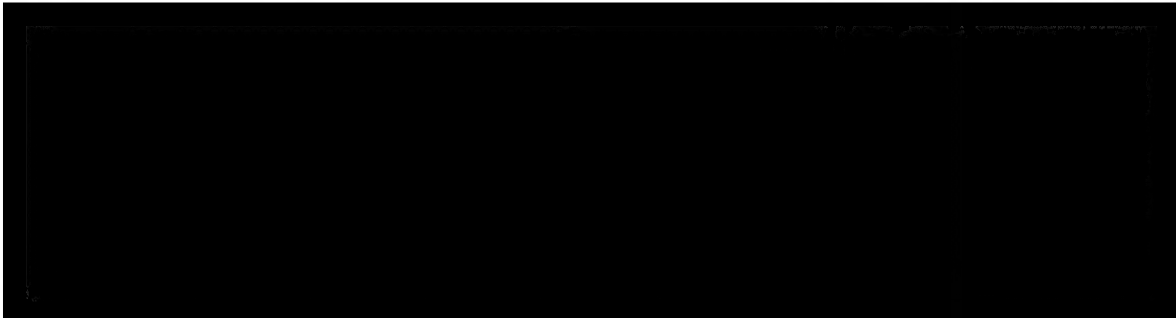
SUBJECT Labor Disputes between Textile Workers and
Communist Authorities, Tsingtao

PLACE

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1. Workers of the China Textile Industries, Incorporated (CTII), in Tsingtao are causing the Communists a great deal of trouble over wages.
2. The CTII workers were unionized about 1931 by the Kuomintang for the explicit purpose of harassing the Japanese mill owners. These workers are well versed in all union tactics and are using them against the Communists.
3. Before the Communist occupation of Tsingtao (1 June 1949), through argument and negotiation with the management the workers arranged for the payment of their wages in flour.
4. Although the Communists readjusted the wage scale only slightly, they pay wages in paper currency at the official rate for flour. This results in about a 40 percent loss in the buying power of the funds received. Therefore, there is much bickering between workers and the Communist political representatives stationed at the mills, which is evidenced daily by arguments, high tempers and scuffling.
5. When wages were paid on the weekend of 23 July, the workers held a meeting and refused to return to work. The Communists arrested over one hundred workers whom they said would be sent to a training center in the interior to change their minds.
6. On 26 July about thirty women workers of Number 4 and Number 5 mills were arrested for arguing and for striking in the wage dispute matter. On 27 July the two mills resumed operations when the balance of workers returned to work. This was done on the advice of one of the arrested workers who was released to inform the workers that, if they did not return to work promptly, severe action (which was interpreted as death) would be taken against those in the Communists' custody.
7. The management states that it cannot force the workers to continue useful production and that definitely the economic problem of the workers must be settled before they will apply themselves to worthy production.

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